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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 6 and 7 June, the Committee considered section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed concern with the abolition of two posts and a negative 0.5 per cent rate of growth which could have an adverse effect on programme implementation, especially on the subprogramme on transfer of technology. Some delegations felt that the growth rate should have been 0.9 per cent. Several delegations expressed concern that recommendations of the Working Party of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the medium-term plan and the programme budget were not taken into account during the preparation of the section.

3. Other delegations welcomed the overall decrease in resources and reduction of posts.

4. Some delegations were concerned with the apparent duplication of activities by UNCTAD and other United Nations entities, and expressed the view that, in the context of restructuring in the economic and social fields, a review of overlapping and complementary activities in the Secretariat should be undertaken.

5. Some delegations supported the proportionate distribution of resources between administration and management and the programme of work. Other delegations were concerned that redeployment of a D-1 post to executive direction and management from the commodities subprogramme would be to the detriment of substantive activities.

6. Several delegations agreed with the suppression of subprogramme 5, Trade among countries having different economic and social systems, and supported the proposed reorientation of activities relating to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Some delegations questioned the reference to a United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology in the absence of any General Assembly mandate for such a conference. At the same time a number of delegations stressed the need for further readjustment of UNCTAD's programme of activities in order to ensure effective consideration of the issues of East-South trade cooperation, as well as integration of countries with economies in transition in international trade.

7. Several delegations expressed concern with the negative real growth of resources allocated to the transfer of technology.

Reservation

8. One delegation expressed its reservation concerning the activities under subprogramme 15.2, Assistance to the Palestinian people.

Conclusion and recommendation

9. The Committee recalled that the decision regarding the proposed reduction of posts under section 15 fell within the competence of the General Assembly.

10. The Committee took note of the programme narrative of section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and recommended its approval by the General Assembly.